

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 23, 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Girton House, Halifax, N. S.
Tuesday, May 23rd, 1887. My dear little wife:

I take up my pen to write from a sense of duty — to show you that you are in my thoughts — but really I haven't the remotest idea what to say.

I arrived here today at noon and was met at the depot by Fritz — who seemed glad to see me — and I have no doubt he was, poor fellow.

Mrs. Sumichrast seems as bright as ever — and I am sure she loves her husband as much as a wife can do.

What a wicked thing of that Mr. Hine to attempt to bring trouble into so happy a household.

I rather think that Fritz proposed to Mr. Hine's daughter in the past!!

Your telegram has relieved my mind for I was troubled at first by not having any word from you to greet me on my arrival. Any word from Charlie and Grace? What news of Graphophone Co — and your father's attempt to compel a cessation of the manufacture of stock by the American Co. — until after they have manufactured instruments?

I have been much interested in reading over old letters to Fritz from my brother Edward — who died in 1867. One of the letters may be produced in evidence as showing that Fritz was known by the name of “Sumichrast” in 1868 instead of “Sumichrast-Roussy” or “Roussy” simply.

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Letters take so long that I hope you will not spare the telegraph. If you grudge an occasional long telegram — I will be 2 glad to pay it out of my \$5000!! When you telegraph please be sure to say how my mother is. I suppose she must be home by this time.

Fritz has a photograph of my brother Melville which is so much better than anything we have that I am going to have it copied by a photographer here. I have had a little talk tonight with Mr. Tremaine and of Fritz' counsel. Tomorrow afternoon all his counsel are to meet me here — for the purpose of pumping me dry. Fritz and I have been looking over old note-books and letters to fix dates — and I have no doubt that my testimony will be of value to him. I hope so — for it is a shame that one who has led as pure and good a life as he has — should have his moral character attacked here — where he has no friend who knew him in the past. The trial will commence the day after tomorrow (Thursday) morning — and I expect to go on the stand in the afternoon.

How is your Mamma? What can I do to take away some of my selfishness — and show people that I care for them and think of them sometimes? There is no one in the whole world I love more than your dear Mamma — and I can see nothing in my actions or manner to show it — I think I am growing more and more selfish year by year —

My deaf-mute researches have taken me away — far away — from you all. I don't think your thoughts — or feel your feelings — nothing but deaf-mute — deaf-mute — and solitude in my mind. And the worst of it is — I don't see the end of it. I can't give up my investigation without finishing it — or myself! — and I don't see much prospect of either! And yet — while my thoughts run in the deaf-mute line — I am practically vanished from the family.

You can't appreciate my excitement over Mrs. Pratt's 3 discovery relating to Mary Brown —(wife of Abiel Lovejoy). I am afraid however that I cannot help her much during my visit here — for “Horton” the place where descendents are to be found in the flesh, is sixty miles from here and out of my way either going to Cape Breton Island or returning.

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Love to dear little Daisy and Elsie — Love to Gipsy and Helen and Grace — and also to Pierson and Sarah.

How is the doctor? This is a specimen of a letter written under difficulties — and in accordance with your advice. The spirit does not move me and I am tired and headachy from my long journey. I write from a sense of duty and of love for my little wife.

Alec. P. S. Kind regards to Miss Perkins. Telegraph Uncle Edward's arrival. Alec.